LES WIDICK, KB4BZJ - A SILENT KEY REMEMBERED

June 7, 1929 - October 7, 2004

Bill Hoskinson, K4CUO, gave the eulogy and moderated during the military service held at the Brevard Memorial Funeral Home in Cocoa, Florida, October 15, 2004. Les had asked Bill to do so when he realized that his time on earth would soon come to an end. He certainly picked a good friend to send him on; no one could have done it better.

Bill talked about his many years of close friendship with Les, about how much help he was given to become a better Ham during their frequent gatherings and about how Les was always helping those in need. Family members had wonderful stories about Les as a husband, father, a US Marine Major and businessman. Friends related stories of the support Les provided to them in times of mourning and about how Les was always there to help with the many square dancing activities they had. All those present laughed and cried with each story. José, my husband, said on our way home, "it is too bad we don't know all these great things about a man until we hear them at his funeral".

We were glad to hear those stories as we also had wonderful memories of Les. He dared me to start a 10 Meter Net after I had just received my Ham license in January of 1991. He was surprised when a few weeks later on March 27th he heard me on the Mosquito Net. He was Mosquito Stinger #3. He always supported and encouraged me. He told me that I did not run a net like anyone else runs a net, but that I ran it well and it was fun. When I did not have a computer he offered to keep a roster for me on his word processor for nearly a year until I got a computer and figured out how to use it.

He was delighted when I arranged our first tailgate/ham fest at the Arthur Dunn Airport parking lot during an Experimental Aircraft Association Smiling Jack Fly-in. We only had two weeks to make arrangements for a tailgate party and get the word out on the radio and with flyers. We could not have pulled it off without Les Widick. The tailgate had about twenty tailgaters, many buyers from all over Central Florida and two Hams from South Georgia. Our first special event was also held that day and Les was one of the net control operators during the event.
The neatest thing was that almost everybody sold all their radio equipment and everyone had such a wonderful time. Les gathered together a group of amateur operators to help our new and old operators put up antennas and help repair them when needed. Only his illness stopped his activity.

I really missed Les when he became so ill. I regret that I only visited him once at his home before he had to be placed in 24-hour care. It was very difficult for me to see him in that condition. I know that he was a good friend to all of us who were honored to know him.

Carole Ann Ramos, KC4VIN